CLAIMS

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- 1. An enzyme having AHCY-type activity which includes amino acids 177 to 314 of the amino acid sequence of Figure 1, or a functional portion or functional equivalent of said enzyme.
- 2. An enzyme according to claim 1 which comprises amino acids 183 to 614 of the amino acid sequence of Figure 1.
- 3. An enzyme according to claim 1 which comprises amino acids 1 to 614 of the amino acid sequence of Figure 1.
 - 4. An isolated DNA sequence comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a sequence which encodes an enzyme according to claim 1 or a functional portion or equivalent thereof;
 - (b) a sequence which is a complement of a sequence (a);
 - (c) a sequence which is a reverse complement of a sequence (a); and
 - (d) a sequence which is a reverse sequence of a sequence (a).
 - 5. A DNA sequence according to claim 4 in which sequence (a) comprises nucleotides 529 to 945 of the Figure 1 sequence.
 - 6. A DNA sequence according to claim 4 in which sequence (a) comprises nucleotides 549 to 1844 of the Figure 1 sequence.
 - 7. A DNA sequence according to claim 4 in which sequence (a) comprises nucleotides 1 to 1844 of the Figure 1 sequence.
 - 8. A DNA construct comprising a DNA sequence according to any one of claims 4
 - 9. A DNA construct comprising, in the 5'-3' direction,:
 - (a) a gene promoter sequence;

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- (b) an open reading frame coding for at least a functional portion of an enzyme according to claim 1; and
- (c) a gene termination sequence.
- 5 10. A DNA construct according to claim 9 wherein the open reading frame is in a sense orientation.
 - 11. A DNA construct according to claim 9 wherein the open reading frame is in an anti-sense orientation.

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- 12. A DNA construct comprising, in the 5'-3' direction,:
 - (a) a gene promoter sequence;
 - (b) a non-coding region of a gene coding for an enzyme according to claim 1; and
 - (c) a gene termination sequence.

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A method for modulating the activity of an enzyme according to claim 1 in a patient, comprising administering to said patient a DNA construct according to any one of claims 8 to 12.

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- 14. A method of amplifying the activity of an enzyme according to claim 1 in a patient comprising administering to said patient a DNA construct according to claim 10.
- 25 15. A method of supressing the activity of an enzyme according to claim 1 in a patient comprising administering to said patient a DNA construct according to claim 11 or claim 12.
- A method of determining the modulatory potential of a compound on an enzyme according to claim 1 which comprises the step of determining the ability of said compound to modulate the activity of said enzyme.
 - 17. An antibody which binds an enzyme according to claim 1.



18. An optionally labelled nucleic acid probe capable of hybridising, under high stringency, to a nucleotide sequence of Figure 1.